



General Assembly

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Agenda items 20, 41, 51, 79, 98 and 99

**The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning
a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development**

**Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on
HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS**

Globalization and interdependence

The rule of law at the national and international levels

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 2 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that you circulate the attached Political Declaration on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in Central America, adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in Central America, held in Managua, Nicaragua, on 24 June 2009, as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20, 41, 51, 79, 98 and 99 (see annex).

(Signed) **María Rubiales de Chamorro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Nicaragua



Annex to the letter dated 2 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Political Declaration on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in Central America

Adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in Central America

We, the undersigned:

Recognizing the Tegucigalpa Protocol as the main legal and political framework for Central American integration, its fundamental objective being to bring about the integration of Central America as a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development;

Reaffirming the principles of the sovereignty, independence and self-determination of our respective States and Governments, as well as the full effectiveness of, and compliance with, our respective legal systems as the basis for the cooperation that we develop with each other in all areas of regional integration and in the conduct of our relations with other States and international organizations;

Recognizing the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America as the legal and political framework for promoting the comprehensive implementation of all aspects of the democratic security model, and as an instrument supplementary to the Tegucigalpa Protocol;

Recognizing the Central American Security Commission as the subsidiary body for the implementation, coordination, assessment and follow-up, development of proposals and other goals set forth in the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America;

Recognizing the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico adopted at the Thirty-First Ordinary Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the countries members of the Central American Integration System (SICA) as the basic instrument for the provision of comprehensive guidance with regard to the coordinated security measures adopted by countries of the region under their own legislation, by establishing the processes and activities required to provide greater security for individuals and property in the Central American region and Mexico, so that our peoples may achieve their human development goals;

Recalling the Thirty-Second Ordinary Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the member countries of SICA, at which the costed plan of action for the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico was approved;

Convinced that drug abuse, the production of, and illicit traffic in, narcotic drugs, transnational organized crime, terrorism and its financing, and the scourge of corruption, pose a threat to the security and political, economic and social development of our peoples;

Aware that such activities adversely affect the rule of law, democratic institutions and governance in our States;

Concerned at the scale of money-laundering and other related crimes in the region;

Deeply concerned at the serious problem of crime-related violence and gangs linked to organized criminal groups in the region, and fully aware of the importance of implementing comprehensive programmes that promote prevention, and the social reintegration and rehabilitation of former members of such groups as part of a global strategy to address the problem;

Recognizing the role that civil society and non-governmental organizations can play in preventing drug use and abuse in the region;

Taking into account the importance of the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol; the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988; the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000, and its three Protocols; and the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 2003 and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption of 1996;

Aware that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-second session, reviewed the implementation of the goals and targets set out in the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly and issued a Political Declaration and Plan of Action on the world drug problem;

Welcoming resolution 51/31 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which calls on Member States to respond to the threat posed by the distribution of internationally controlled drugs on the unregulated market;

Reaffirming also the commitments of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted by consensus on 8 September 2006 by the United Nations General Assembly and constitutes the frame of reference for the international community in combating terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, as well as General Assembly resolution 62/172, adopted in December 2007;

Reaffirming the need to strengthen international and regional cooperation in criminal matters, particularly in the areas of extradition; mutual legal assistance; and the seizure and confiscation of proceeds from drug trafficking;

Recognizing the efforts made by our countries to combat drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism, including within the Permanent Central American Commission on the Eradication of the Illicit Production, Trafficking, Consumption and Use of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (CCP), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE),

Stressing that preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and the financing of terrorism requires an integrated and balanced approach, which incorporates the principle of equitable and shared responsibility together with a renewed sense of commitment at the political level;

Welcoming the commitment of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to support the member countries of SICA, and in particular to support the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico and its plan of action;

Recognizing the importance of the cooperation agreement signed between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the General Secretariat of SICA on 13 November 2008;

Recognizing that the Central American countries require resources additional to their national budgets for the implementation of the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico and its plan of action;

We declare the following:

1. We are fully committed to combating drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and terrorist financing; and to continuing to take effective action against the scourges that threaten the integral development of our peoples;
2. **We welcome** the UNODC Programme for Strengthening the Plan of Action for the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico, resolving to refer it to the Central American Security Commission for review and implementation within the framework of the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico and of the institutions of SICA;
3. **We call on** those States members of SICA that have not already done so to incorporate into national legislation, as appropriate, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols; the United Nations Convention against Corruption; the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol; the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971; and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;
4. **We call on** our member States to act in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions and urge those that have not yet done so, to sign, ratify or become parties to, the universal and inter-American counter-terrorism instruments;
5. **We urge** the Governments of SICA member countries to conduct awareness-raising campaigns for potential victims and the general public about the dangers of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse, human trafficking and/or smuggling and for potential victims of violence, especially women and children, their families and the public at large;
6. **We recognize** the importance of law enforcement and international judicial assistance in combating illicit drug trafficking and transnational crime as well as the need to enhance border security in Central America;
7. **We request** UNODC to provide bilateral technical assistance to those countries that need it for the preparation and submission of their reports to the Security Council committees;
8. **We encourage** civil society and non-governmental organizations to join in the efforts to prevent violence and crime through the coordination of policies, strategies, plans and programmes that are of considerable benefit to society;

9. **We recognize** the importance of the Central American Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control in the context of the efforts to strengthen the relevant national and regional authorities and pave the way for the establishment of an effective control regime for such weapons, thus reducing the risk of the related illicit trafficking in arms and violence resulting therefrom;
10. **We request** UNODC to continue to provide technical assistance for full implementation of the international counter-terrorism instruments through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in coordination with other regional bodies;
11. **We recognize** the importance of regional cooperation and collaboration with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF/GAFI), the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF/GAFIC), the South American Financial Action Group (GAFISUD) and other regional and international partner agencies with a view to reducing the risk of money-laundering and terrorist financing;
12. **We recognize** the fundamental role of education at all levels as the primary means of addressing the various manifestations of organized crime;
13. **We recognize** the importance of promoting integrity in the armed forces and other public entities in order to combat corruption and enhance the transparency of government agencies and of witness protection and victim assistance systems and mechanisms;
14. **We appeal** to UNODC to mobilize the international community, in coordination with the General Secretariat of SICA, to provide the additional financial resources needed for effective implementation of the UNODC Programme for Strengthening the Plan of Action for the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico and the agreements on regional security signed by the Heads of State and Government of the countries members of SICA;
15. **We acknowledge** the importance of building the capacity of the member countries of SICA to prevent violence and crime through policies, strategies, plans and programmes developed under the legislation of each country; the involvement of civil society; and the strengthening of government institutions;
16. **We will promote** programmes to reduce demand for narcotic drugs and prevent drug abuse, as well as develop a programme to reduce the harmful effects of drug use on the health of the most vulnerable and high-risk groups in society through the Permanent Central American Commission on the Eradication of the Illicit Production, Trafficking, Consumption and Use of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (CCP);
17. **We will work** to harmonize HIV/AIDS policies at the national and regional level, as well as to implement programmes that provide drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services;
18. **We will strengthen** the institutions, mechanisms, and prison and post-release follow-up programmes that contribute to the social reintegration of persons deprived of their liberty, including those repatriated for having committed criminal acts, and to an improvement in prison facilities;

19. **We will increase** the forensic investigation and analysis capacity of the various bodies of the SICA member countries, within their respective areas of competence, so as to ensure a fully efficient criminal justice system;
20. **We take note** of the national integrated programmes presented at the Ministerial Conference and request UNODC to provide technical assistance to the countries in question for the finalization and subsequent implementation of the said programmes;
21. **We welcome** the establishment of a UNODC Regional Programme Office in Panama;
22. **We support** the establishment of centres of excellence in the Central American countries under the country programmes and the UNODC Programme for Strengthening the Plan of Action for the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico;
23. **We agree to bring** the outcome of this Conference to the attention of the Meeting of Presidents of SICA;
24. **We thank** the people and Government of the Republic of Nicaragua for their hospitality during this Conference.

(Signed) Carlos **Perdomo**
Minister of National Security
Belize

(Signed) Roberto **Campos**
Deputy Minister of National Defence
Guatemala

(Signed) Ana Isabel **Morales**
Minister of the Interior
Nicaragua

(Signed) Antonio **Picel Cabral**
Assistant Secretary of State for Interior
and Police
Dominican Republic

(Signed) Odemar **Madrigal**
Deputy Minister of Security
Costa Rica
(with observer status)

(Signed) Carlos A. **Castañeda**
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
El Salvador

(Signed) Eduardo **Rosales**
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mario Eduardo **Perdomo Cerrato**
Deputy Minister of Security
and Mario **Cabañas**, Attorney General
Honduras

(Signed) Severino **Mejía**
Deputy Minister of the Interior and
Justice
Panama

(Signed) Raúl **López Lira**
Ambassador of Mexico to Nicaragua
Mexico

(Signed) Juan Daniel **Alemán**
SICA General Secretariat